To minimize the use of the chemical pesticides the Government is promoting the integrated pest management (IPM) programme.

Shortage of fodder

4351. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of fodder due to serious drought situation in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to strengthen fodder bank and seed production in these States; and

(c) whether any amount has been released to these States so far, in this regard in the financial year 2002-03; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. There is an overall shortage of fodder in the drought-affected States, including MP. and Chhattisgarh.

(b) Government of India grants the funds to the States for establishment of fooder banks on 75 : 25, Centre : State Share basis. Besides, fodder Minikits under "Central Minikit Testing Programme on Fodder Crops" are allotted to the States for onward supply to the farmers free of cost for fodder and fodder seed production. In addition, 100% Central funds are also provided to the States for enrichment of straw/cellulosic waste.

(c) Government of Chhattisgarh was granted an amount of Rs. 100 lakhs for Enrichment of Straw/Cellulosic Waste during 2002-03. Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were also allotted fodder minikits 44000 nos. and 7600 nos. respectively during 2002-2003.

Development of bacterial-wilt resistant chilli

4352. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of the Department of Olericulture of Kerala Agricultural University has developed a bacterial-wilt resistant chilli;

(b) if so, the details of the research; and

(c) by when the commercial production of this variety could be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bacterial-wilt-resistant chilli variety, Anugraha has been developed by Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Thrissur. This variety bears long, light green and medium pungent fruits. The average yield of green chilli fruits is 27 tonnes per hectare.

(c) This variety has already been released by the Kerala State Variety Release Committee in 2002 for commercial cultivation in the State.

Drought assistance to Bihar

†4353. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a)' the details of the damage caused to various crops in Bihar due to the fury of cold wave/drought;

(b) whether Government have formulated any package for affected farmers and fruit growers of Bihar; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the relief funds are likely to be provided to affected farmers of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Cold wave is not one of the natural calamities identified by the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) for relief assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). The Government of Bihar has not reported drought situation during 2002-03 and no report on damage to crops due to drought has been received from the State Government.

Crop Adjustment Programme

4354. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how the Centre has reacted to "Crop Adjustment Programme" mooted by the agriculture scientists of Punjab under the guidance of eminent agriculture scientist, Dr. S. S. Johl;

(b) how the Centre propose to encourage it in the context of Second Green Revolution for the country; and

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†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.